

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for receiving an e-mail message and transmitting the e-mail message to one of a plurality of computers. The apparatus includes a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and a processor for executing the

5 program code stored in said memory. The program code includes code for receiving the e-mail message, storing the e-mail message in a mailbox corresponding to a user-name, incrementing a counter representative of the number of e-mail messages which are stored in the mailbox, determining if an e-mail client corresponding to the user-name has formed a connection

10 between the one of the plurality of computers and the server, transmitting the e-mail message to the one of the computers if the connection has been formed, and thereafter, deleting the e-mail message from the mailbox and decrementing the counter.